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Country: USSR

Subject: Plans for Engineering Battalions for Underground Military Construction

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1. "As of September 1953 the workers in the mining industries (in Estonia this includes the oilshale miners) and in tunnel construction in the whole of the USSR were registered in the war commissariats. In case of a mobilization a number of them will be used to form certain engineering units - 'engineering battalions of underground building'. These units will be provided with certain tools and equipment which are used in the mining industry in peace time.
2. "Provisions have been made for the wide use of 'underground defense constructions' in a future war, viz.,
  - Underground dumps for explosives (VV)
  - " " " arms
  - " " " valuable property
  - " shelters for staffs
  - " " " resting troops.
3. "All these constructions will normally be located 8-20 meters underground.
4. "The advantages of these underground constructions are:
  - (a) The constructions can be given unlimited resistance by the simple means of placing them deep underground without wasting any expensive building materials.
  - (b) The constructions are fit to be used by troops at any stage of their building.
  - (c) The constructions can be camouflaged very easily both when finished and when under construction; the work on them can be conducted under enemy fire.
  - (d) The constructions can be enlarged to any size and at the same time their finished part can be put into use by the troops.
  - (e) The soldiers can have a real rest in them as the noise of battle hardly penetrates into an underground shelter.
5. "The engineering battalions of underground building will be largely mechanized. They will be provided with the most modern instruments so that they will be able to do their work at a quick pace, even under unfavorable hydro-geological conditions."

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